

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-15 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 EB-11 IO-13 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIEP-02 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02

RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 151214Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2849

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

1. DURING COURSE OF DCM'S AUGUST 11 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD MESTIRI (SEE SEPTELS), SUBJECT OF TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WAS ALSO RAISED.

2. MESTIRI STATED THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA WOULD BE ATTENDING CONFERENCE BUT PROBABLY WOULD REMAIN NO MORE THAN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, ALTHOUGH SOJOURN WOULD DEPEND BOTH ON BOURGUIBA'S HEALTH AS WELL AS ANY SPECIAL REQUEST TO REMAIN WHICH BOUMEDIENE MIGHT MAKE OF THE PRESIDENT. (WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI WILL ATTEND CONFERENCE.)

3. MESTIRI CONTINUED THAT THE GOT WILL FOCUS ON TWO MAJOR SUBJECTS AT THE CONFERENCE: (A) THE MEANING OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND THE ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES AT A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND (B) THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH FACE THE THIRD
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WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME HE THOUGHT THAT THE MIDDLE EAST

WOULD ALSO ATTRACT ATTENTION.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO FIRST SUBJECT, MESTIRI NOTED THAT IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT TODAY TO KNOW PRECISELY WHICH STATE IS NON-ALIGNED AND WHICH IS NOT. HE OBSERVED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PAKISTAN WOULD CURRENTLY FIT INTO THAT CATEGORY WHILE INDIA, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL EXPONENTS OF THIS CONCEPT, COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED NON-ALIGNED AT PRESENT. THIS WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN TRUE OF EGYPT A YEAR OR SO AGO. AT SAME TIME, STATES LIKE FRANCE AND SPAIN MIGHT EVEN QUALIFY AT PRESENT TIME. THEREFORE, MESTIRI CONTINUED, MUCH THOUGHT WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO AN UPDATED DEFINITION OF THIS CONCEPT.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO PROBLEM (B), MESTIRI NOTED THAT THE MAJOR CONCERN TODAY FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IS THEIR ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF PRICES FOR PRIMARY RAW PRODUCTS LIKE OIL AS WELL AS THE COST OF FINISHED PRODUCTS COMING OUT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. MESTIRI THOUGHT THAT THESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MIGHT WELL TURN OUT TO BE THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE.

6. DCM OBSERVED THAT USG HAS NO DIFFICULTY WITH THESE CONFERENCES AND HOPES THEY CAN MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION. USG AGREES THAT DURING THIS TIME OF DETENTE IT IS IMPORTANT INDEED FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO RETHINK THEIR POSITION ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH THEY FACE BOTH AS NON-ALIGNED STATES AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE GREATER WORLD COMMUNITY. SEELYE

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